

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected and claim 4 is objected to.

The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action, and applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable over the references of record. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

To perfect applicants claim for a priority date of July 12, 2002, enclosed herewith is a verified English translation of Korean priority application No. 10-2002-0040702. The claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 is therefore perfected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wieczorek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,703,278, filed on 7/30/2002) in view of Wolf et al. (Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Vol. 1-Process Technology, copyright 1986).

The Examiner has acknowledged the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. Under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §119, the above noted application is accorded the benefit of the priority date of Korean priority application No. 10-2002-0040702, filed on July 12, 2002. Wieczorek, on the other hand, filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 30, 2002, after applicant's priority date of July 12, 2002. In view of the July 12, 2002, priority date of the present application, Wieczorek no longer qualifies as statutory prior art under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this corresponding rejection of claims 1-3 for at least the above reasons.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wieczorek et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,703,278, filed on 7/30/2002) in view of Wolf et al. (Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Vol. 1-Process Technology, copyright 1986) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,734,056, filed on 11/15/2002).

As discussed above, under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §119, the present application must be accorded the benefit of the July 12, 2002, priority date. Lin, as relied upon by the Examiner, was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 15, 2002; Wieczorek was filed on July 30, 2002; therefore

neither Lin nor Wieczorek is prior art under §§102 or 103. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this corresponding rejection of claim 5 for at least the above reasons.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this case to issue. If the Examiner believes that personal contact with the undersigned would expedite prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience.

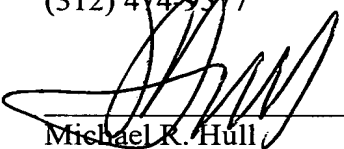
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-9577

August 17, 2004

By:


Michael R. Hull
Reg. No. 35,902